

30 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Carrier borne A-12's

25X1A On Friday, 27 September, Mr. Cunningham reviewed for me the events
leading up to the Navy involvement in the A-12 program. It stems from
a recent meeting between Kelly Johnson, Mr. Cunningham, and Capt.
25X1A [] at LAC at which time the question was raised as to the capability
of future planned carriers to handle large aircraft. Initially it was
not put in the context of the A-12, but eventually reached that stage.
[] response that vehicles up to 100,000 lbs. could
probably be launched at designated speeds and that gross weights up to
50,000 lbs. and 3.8 g could be arrested elicited the comment from
Kelly Johnson that, with some feasible changes which he suggested and
which, if applied now, would only mean changes to drawings, the concept
would be workable. The entire discussion was placed in the frame of
reference of these changes being logical changes for the Navy in that
25X1A they should keep current with aircraft state-of-the-art to support
advanced aircraft regardless of the program. [] requested
that Admiral Thatch be briefed so that the specific requests to
BuShip designers to study the changes would come from him and would be
done without questions.

Subsequently it was requested that Secretary Korth be briefed
because he had to sign a report to McNamara about the A-12 from
carriers. However, in talking with Gene Kiefer later, he said he had
the document to sign and it was a one page report in effect saying,
"there's nothing like A-12's off of a carrier". I asked Gene who
wrote the report, and he said he didn't know!

25X1A []

NAVY review(s) completed.